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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

September 8, 1988

(Month of August, 1988)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters increased during the month of August. The land crew total decreased by two to 156 and the marine crew total increased by four for a net increase of two crews to a total of 188.

The August total (188) represents an increase of 1% from last month, a 1% increase over August, 1987, **a 21% increase over August, 1986**, a 52% decrease from August, 1985, a 64% decrease from August, 1984, a 61% decrease from August, 1983, and a decrease of 67% from the same month in 1982.

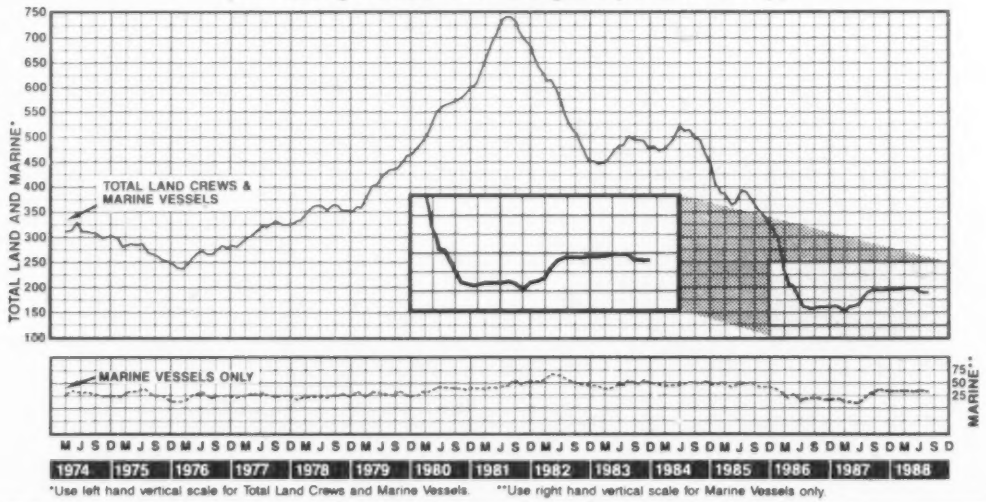
During August, six contractors were operating six of the 141 land crews and one of the twenty-seven marine vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Aug.'87	Aug.'86	Aug.'85	Aug.'84	Aug. 83	Aug.'82
	188	186	187	156	390	523	484	562

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Aug. 1987	Aug. 1986	Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1983	Aug. 1982	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Aug. 1987	Aug. 1986	Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1983	Aug. 1982
42 Contr's:	141	143	145	120	308	433	396	458	27	23	25	16	42	45	43	54
8 Oil Co's:	15	15	14	17	33	37	39	42	4	4	3	3	6	7	6	7
1 Gov't:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
TOTALS	156	158	159	137	341	470	435	500	32	28	28	19	49	53	49	62

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)


TOTAL LAND AND MARINE*
TOTAL LAND CREWS & MARINE VESSELS
MARINE VESSELS ONLY
MARINE**
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1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

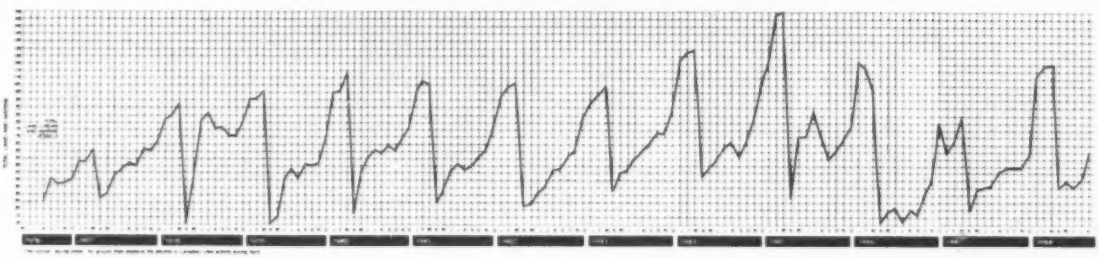
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

August, 1988 (July figures in parentheses)

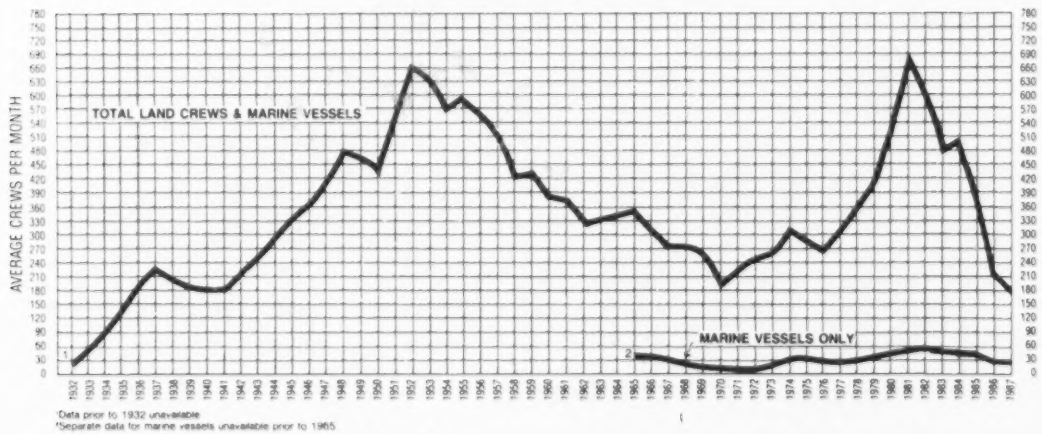
	Land Crews	Marine Crews
29 Contractors:	54 (38)	3 (2)
1 Oil Company:	2 (2)	0 (0)
Totals:	56 (40)	3 (2)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965